

By: Harris

S.B. No. 520

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirement that certain applicants for a vehicle dealer general distinguishing number complete a dealer education course.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 503.029, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(d) An applicant for an original dealer general distinguishing number who proposes to be an independent motor vehicle dealer, as specified under Subsection (a)(6)(B), and who does not hold a general distinguishing number as a franchised motor vehicle dealer or independent motor vehicle dealer, as specified under Subsection (a)(6)(A) or (B), must submit to the department evidence that the applicant completed a dealer education course, approved by the department, in the 12-month period preceding the date the application is filed. The course must be at least eight hours and not more than 12 hours in length. If the applicant is an entity, the course must be completed by one individual listed on the application as an owner.

(e) The department may approve a dealer education course under Subsection (d) only if the provider of the course:

(1) is a business with experience providing compliance education to independent motor vehicle dealers;

(2) provides online and CD-ROM versions of the course

1 in English and in Spanish with assessment and verification  
2 capabilities;

3 (3) provides ongoing educational support by telephone  
4 or the Internet for one year at no additional cost to persons who  
5 have completed a course;

6 (4) provides at least one instructor-led dealer  
7 education course each month, including at least one instructor-led  
8 course each year in or near:

9 (A) Austin;

10 (B) Dallas and Fort Worth;

11 (C) El Paso;

12 (D) Houston; and

13 (E) San Antonio; and

14 (5) has a curriculum review panel for the course that  
15 consists of at least four independent motor vehicle dealers who  
16 hold dealer general distinguishing numbers.

17 (f) An applicant is not required to comply with Subsection  
18 (d) if, at the time the application is submitted, a dealer education  
19 course is not currently approved by the department.

20 SECTION 2. Subsection (d), Section 503.029, Transportation  
21 Code, as added by this Act, applies only to an application for an  
22 original independent motor vehicle dealer general distinguishing  
23 number filed with the Texas Department of Transportation on or  
24 after September 1, 2010. An application filed before that date is  
25 governed by the law in effect when the application was filed, and  
26 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

27 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2010, the Texas

1 Department of Transportation shall begin to approve or reject  
2 applications from providers of dealer education courses under  
3 Sections 503.029(d) and (e), Transportation Code, as added by this  
4 Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.